

Thailand Morning Cuppa

Top Story & Regional Research

Market Strategy – Regional

Opportunities Abound Amidst An Uneven Recovery

Regional Strategy

Recovery. RHB economists expect ASEAN economies to witness a rebound in 2021 growth. Domestic consumption plays – a common theme across ASEAN – should lead the recovery. Continuing government support, a normalisation of business activities, improving consumer and business confidence and an enduring low interest rate environment should support an improvement in private consumption across ASEAN in 1H21. The availability of COVID-19 vaccine should cement the recovery in 2H21. Banks, infrastructure, land transport operators and selective food & beverage and retail names are preferred plays, while the aviation, real estate, tourism and hospitality sectors, will start witnessing earnings recovery toward end-2021.

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Today's Report: [Market Strategy – Regional : Opportunities Abound Amidst An Uneven Recovery \(8 Jan 2021\)](#)

Previous Report: [Market Strategy – Regional : ASEAN Re-Opens For Business \(19 Nov 2020\)](#)

Chart 1: SET intra-day graph



SET	2018	2019	2020	2021F
PE (x)	16.23	18.10	24.82	30.20
P/BV (x)	1.74	1.70	1.62	1.71
Yield (%)	3.35	3.26	2.75	3.18

SET Value by investor Type: Daily

	Buy (THBm)	Sell (THBm)	Net (THBm)
Institution	13,158.85	11,109.34	2,049.50
Proprietary	13,899.17	12,803.50	1,095.67
Foreign	38,572.29	38,427.33	144.97
Retail	55,695.79	58,985.93	-3,290.14

SET Value by investor Type

	MTD (THBm)	YTD (THBm)
Institution	7,719.20	7,719.20
Proprietary	2,775.27	2,775.27
Foreign	724.80	724.79
Retail	-11,219.26	-11,219.26

SET50 Index Future

	Long	Short	Net	MTD	YTD
Institution	46,024	43,450	2,574	22,014	22,014
Foreign	95,960	97,623	-1,663	-21,344	-21,344
Local	124,653	125,564	-911	-670	-670

Note: *As at 7 Jan 2021 closing

Table 1: Key market indices (8 Jan 2021)

	Index	Chg	% Chg
SET	1513.78	+21.42	+1.44
SET50	955.39	+14.98	+1.59
SET100	2137.38	+32.15	+1.53
Dow Jones	31041.13	+211.73	+0.69
Nasdaq	13067.48	+326.69	+2.56
S&P500	3803.79	+55.65	+1.48
FTSE	6856.96	+15.10	+0.22
FSSTI	2906.97	+43.96	+1.54
Hang Seng	27548.52	-143.78	-0.52
Nikkei	27490.13	+434.19	+1.60
KLCI	1602.95	+10.98	+0.69
SHANGHAI SE	3576.21	+25.33	+0.71
JCI	6153.63	+87.95	+1.45

Note: *As at 7 Jan 2021 closing

Top BUYs

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
Advance Info Service (ADVANC TB)	220.00	21.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlook should continue to recover with cost management on focus. While we expect the normalisation of prepaid segment demand, subs acquisition activities and easing competition to gradually drive topline to recovery in 2H20, we think a value-to-money strategy through a bundling package should continue to yield additional revenue to the group The toning down of capex guidance should ease investor concern over the imminent margins pressure. We expect the impact from the roll-out of 5G network to be limited, as it should be partially absorbed by network cost saving initiative, staggered payment profile, and tax incentive scheme
Bangkok Chain Hospital (BCH TB)	17.50	25.90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We still expect to see robust COVID-19 screening services demand throughout 2H20 on the continuous return of students studying abroad, migrant workers, and business travellers after border restrictions are relaxed. The doubling of its capacity under the alternative state quarantine should boost upside from this new revenue stream and bolster FY20 earnings We expect to see strong 2H20 recovery in Social Security Office or SSO revenue, driven by the resumption of pent-up demand from high-cost care, trauma, and dental services. We also think global budget disbursements could bring further upsides this year, thanks to relatively lower insured patients traffic during the pandemic
Bangkok Expressway & Metro (BEM TB)	11.50	35.29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its expressway unit has recovered rapidly in terms of traffic numbers and is currently approaching pre-pandemic levels The Blue-Line Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) is underway towards a recovery towards pre-pandemic levels. Although the recovery seems slow, organic growth in this business will be more aggressive than growth in the expressway unit. This is because the full-loop network of the Blue-Line MRT is currently in operation
Central Pattana (CPN TB)	58.00	18.97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving sentiment for its retail mall operations, based on indirect benefits from the year-end tax rebate for shopping campaigns Rental rate discounts may marginally improve, with no material impact from temporary political rallies, on store traffic Efficient cost control measures have lowered its variable and fixed costs, mainly utility and marketing expenses, while profit margins are likely on the uptrend on the back of reviving retail mall operations Residential business sees stronger sales momentum in 4Q20 – the industry's high season – based on more high-rise unit transfers, along with low-rise projects in Bangkok and upcountry
CH Karnchang (CK TB)	22.50	33.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company's orderbooks turnaround can be anticipated within the near term For the construction work of the west side route, as well as the operations and maintenance concessions for the entire route, CK partnered with its associate. It will be the frontrunner due to its experience in constructing and operating underground MRT networks The Luang Prabang hydropower project should be next and negotiations will likely be concluded soon. With a construction size of THB80-90bn – comparable to Xayaburi – this project's construction will span a 7-year period and start contributing to revenue in FY22
CP ALL (CPALL TB)	77.00	33.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V-shaped earnings recovery, with continued opening of new stores, while Siam Makro's operations remain solid As it has the most extensive store network, CPALL may strongly benefit the new normal in terms of facilitating delivery of products and services through its developing omni-channel platform Still the best-in-class retailer with intact new store opening plan. Expect full-year earnings returning to pre-pandemic levels in 2021 To finance the acquisition of Tesco Lotus with a combination of debt and perpetual debentures to balance its leverage
Home Product Center (HMPRO TB)	17.00	25.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expecting normalising earnings in FY21 – to be supported by full-year operations of all stores and retail malls vs a temporary closure from late March to mid-May, with profit margins approaching pre-pandemic levels HMPRO's investment in Vietnam may strongly benefit growing urbanisation and a potential rise in the construction sector Quarterly earnings momentum will continue its upward trajectory in 1Q21 Rapid improvement in sustainability development may allow the stock to continue trading at a premium

Top BUYs

	TP (THB)	Upside (%)	Catalysts
Krung Thai Bank (KTB TB)	14.60	19.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We upgrade KTB to BUY from Neutral. The stock has been a laggard due to its weaker asset quality and NIM. But at 0.45 FY21F P/BV against ROE of 5%, we believe much of the negatives have been priced in We expect KTB to be a beneficiary of new investment projects that will be rolled out by the Government next year
Osotspa PCL (OSP TB)	49.00	38.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-Vitt Vitamin C drinks' popularity and its production hike to strengthen domestic sales amid a U-shaped recovery for OSP's local energy drinks Full-year operations of its beverage filling facilities in Myanmar to improve market penetration and profit margins in 2021, while the highly efficient "Fit Fast Firm" corporate cost-savings programme should continue strengthening its profit margins Seeking inorganic growth via partnerships, as well as both vertical and horizontal integrations
Ratch Group (RATCH TB)	68.00	25.93	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A laggard play of the sector Provides dividend yield c.4% pa, higher than average peer Share price is undemanding at this level, which discount to peer in term of P/E, while 2021 earnings are expected to grow due to recognition of new projects
Siam Cement (SCC TB)	420.00	10.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are three growth drivers, including an upcycle of petrochemical spreads, a series of new infrastructure projects to start the construction process, and growth expansion in the packaging business especially after SCG Packaging raises funds from its IPO Its earnings going forward should rely mainly on petrochemical unit's performance starting to improve in 2H20 and growing stronger on a full-year basis in FY21
WHA Corp (WHA TB)	3.80	20.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHA should be the major local industrial estate player that turns around its industrial land sales business, especially after international travel restrictions are lifted in FY21. This is while its recurring-income units – including utility services and rental spaces – provide downside protection for its earnings prospects Top industries that will dominate the next foreign direct investment cycle include: i) Auto & parts, ii) electronics, iii) consumer products, and iv) medical products. The latter, in our view, will bode well for WHA's premium warehouse spaces, while auto & parts, electronics, and consumer products can spur demand for its industrial land and conventional warehouse spaces

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